INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY STATEMENT FROM SUSAN ROSENBERG AND TIM BLUNK

Captured Resistance Fighters

Revolutionary greetings of solidarity and love and resistance.

I am honored to have this opportunity on behalf of myself and my comrade Tim to extend our solidarity to women making revolution around the world and right here.

Revolutionary women like Ashraf Deghani, Leila Khaled, Teurai Ropa Nhongo, Assata Shakur, Commandante Ana Maria Melida Montes, Dona Consuelo Lee de Corretjer, the Puerto Rican women Prisoners of War, Judy Clark -- their example of sacrifice, dedication, humility and love of their people and nations call forth from revolutionary women and men in the Northamerican movement a heightened commitment to proletarian internationalism and to resisting our common enemy, US imperialism.

Tim and I both send a revolutionary embrace to all of the organizations represented here from the national liberation struggles, to the organizations from the Northamerican anti-imperialist left and to all the sisters and brothers. We take this opportunity of International Women's Day to rededicate ourselves to the defeat of imperialism, the liberation of oppressed nations, the victory of socialism and the liberation of women.

We believe that in emulating revolutionary women who have chosen their path to liberation as women in fighting for their nations' self-determination and independence, that we are compelled to fight the enemy in its heart and make the struggle of the oppressed nations our own. We fight to build solidarity with these struggles because they are just struggles, and because they are defeating the imperialist system. We fight because these struggles are for the kind of world we want and need for ourselves and our children.

In the building of socialist nations and the wars of national liberation, the full participation of women at all levels of life is a priority, where physical abuse, violence and genocide, contempt and degradation are fought and stopped.

In Nicaragua, a new humanity is being constructed, new men, new women and free children, where culture, education, production and positive development are promoted and fought for, where women and their active participation, liberation and full equality are a top priority. This stands in fundamental opposition to the reactionary violence of the contra attacks which constantly target women and children, health care workers and teachers. Hospitals and day care centers are the targets of terror by those that Reagan calls his "brothers." The contras, like all reactionary imperialists, cannot understand that in attacking women they unleash an unparalleled power and fury that women encompass when the life and death struggle for the future of the nation, for the children of th nation, for the continuation of life itself is threatened. The liberation of women and the struggle for their full participation has been a decisive part of the victories of all people's wars and revolutionary struggles. Because revolutionary Nicaragua, like Cuba and Vietnam before it, understands this lesson, we have no doubt of their ultimate victory against US imperialism.

When the Puerto Rican POWs say that they are their nation's conscience in arms, it is this same revolutionary humanity and strategy that threatens imperialism as that of a free Nicaragua, or the liberated zones of El Salvador. In San Salvador last month, a women's prison rose in rebellion against the attacks by the fascist army, The women political prisoners took control of the prison and took the warden and his staff hostages to demand an end to the Salvadoran army "security directives" -- directives which in truth meant hundreds of soldiers searching the prison and raping and torturing the women prisoners. These women political prisoners said ENOUGH. This was the first women's prison uprising in Central America, and when El Salvador will be recognized as free, this uprising will be a historic point in their struggle for national liberation and the liberation of women.

Imperialism uses rape as its weapon against women. It uses the denial of medical care and isolation and physical violence against the Puerto Rican POWs -- very much like the contras in Nicaragua or the army in El Salvador. The particular example of the Puerto Rican women POWs in their militant resistance to the state's attempts to crack them, to strip them of their identity and try to destroy them is a very important lesson for all of us. This year marks the fifth anniversary of their capture, and the enemy has not made a dent with its contemptuous violence against them. Instead, they grow stronger. In their own words they have said that it is their unshakable faith in the masses of their people, their continuing participation in building the revolutionary war to win Puerto Rico's war for independence, that makes their resistance and clarity grow with each passing year in the enemy's jails.

As a captured woman communist combatant I can identify with and take to heart the lessons these comrades have struggled for. One of the reasons I went underground was to try and make real our movement's slogan "women freedom fighters, live like them -- dare to struggle, dare to win."

The past several years underground have been the most difficult and the best of my political life. The struggle to become a communist and a combatant have by their very nature raised the struggle for the empowering of women and the struggle against male supremacy/chauvinism. Political/military work in clandestinity demands a commitment to the highest standards, to a continual struggle for science and objectivity against individualism, for continuing opposition to bourgeois ideology, white supremacy and male supremacy within each of us in the day-to-day work of clandestine life. I saw that as women and men we began to transform ourselves into revolutionaries.

I know that for myself, that for women, we need to work harder to fight our own self-conceptions and weaknesses that come from our oppression as women. When we do fight these things, and resolve them because we have had to, women fight harder against the enemy. When we understand that we have more to gain by fighting the enemy than we have to lose, then anything is possible. In building a revolutionary armed clandestine organization, we make our participation in revolutionary activity and our solidarity with women freedom fighters complete.

As you may know, Tim and I are currently on trial in Federal Court in New Jersey. We are anti-imperialist resistance fighters; we are part of the armed clandestine movement in the Northamerican oppressor nation. The government has charged us with criminal conspiracy to possess certain materials -- explosives, weapons and identification. Our position is that this trial is not about criminal conspiracy to possess but rather about a revolutionary strategy to resist imperialism, its war machine, its war crim es and genocidal attacks against the righteous revolutionary and socialist nations and peoples in the worldwide anti-imperialist movement.

Our position is that it is a responsibility to resist US imperialism. We unite with all the emerging forms of resistance and we have learned from the examples of those that wage armed resistance and armed struggle as part of the strategy of the political mobilization of the masses in organizing people's war in the Puerto Rican and New Afrikan Independence Movements. Because we believe that it is a responsibility to resist, a human right to defend liberation, we extend that view to include armed resistance carried on by the developing armed clandestine movement in the oppressor nation. Our position is that the wrong people are on trial in Newark -- it is the war makers, the imperialists, the ruling class and killer cops who should be brought to justice -- by people's justice. We know that this day will come.

In fighting for the just demands of women and the development of women as full revolutionary communists, the struggle for the liberation of women becomes part of our strategy to win. In building a Northamerican armed clandestine movement, which includes organizations like the United Freedom Front, the Armed Resistance Unit, the Red Guerrilla Resistance, the Revolutionary Fighting Group -- there is created in content and form the ability to be like women freedom fighters.

VICTORY TO THE LIBERATION OF WOMEN!
VICTORY TO NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES!
BUILD A REVOLUTIONARY RESISTANCE MOVEMENT!
DEFEAT US IMPERIALISM!

In solidarity,

Susan Rosenberg and Tim Blunk

Delivered at an International Women's Day Event in Honor of Revolutionary Women, March 8, 1985, New York, New York.

STATEMENT TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
1985

From Grand Jury Resisters Sandra Roland, Julie Nalibov, and Christine Rico

After being under subpoena for 5 months, it took less than 20 minutes to go through the specific act of stating to the grand juries that we were refusing to testify and why. And now, one month later, the principles that guided us on the street are the same principles that we struggle to maintain as political prisoners. This means being anti-racist and respectful of other inmates. It means being clear about who the enemy is and determining the best strategy to deal with it.

Prison life reenforces the most oppressive aspects of society at large. Everything is designed to take away self-respect, decision-making, one's principles, and to turn people into snitches. For women, this means being treated like little girls and being subjected to sexual manipulation and harassment.

In the short time we have been here, we've met dozens of other prisoners from other federal institutions who have met some of the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and political prisoners, comrades from the New York 8 Against Fascist Terrorism and North American anti-imperialist political prisoners. Especially considering the tiny fraction of the prison population these comrades represent, the impact they have had has been striking. Without exception, these comrades are recognized as political prisoners and are greatly respected.

There is a wing under construction at this prison which is said to be designated for housing women political prisoners. The federal Bureau of Prisons also recognizes the potential impact of political prisoners.

The successful campaign to get Haydee Torres and Ida Luz Rodriguez out of Davis Hall, Alderson, was a great victory. Only our continued vigilance will keep the Prisoners of War and political prisoners in general population with basic human rights. Someday, that vigilance and strength of the national liberation movements will reclaim these comrades for the struggle in the streets.

Last week our comrade Steven Burke, was visited by the FBI to see if incarceration had weakened his resolve not to testify before the Grand Jury. Steven let them know that his principle of non-collaboration was unshakable. He managed to give them a piece of his mind, but not the piece they were looking for. The FBI doesn't understand principles and honor. They don't understand that our principles will not be broken by punishment or "coercion." Incarceration only strenthens our resolve.

We want to extend our solidarity to the Puerto Rican Prisoners of War, the New Afrikan Prisoners of War and on International Women's Day to acknowledge the fighting spirit of the owmen freedom fighters captured in the struggle to free their nation. Our thoughts are with captured combatants Susan Rosenberg, Tim Blunk and the Ohio 5 as they go to their respective trials. Their continuing struggle from behind the walls has been helpful and an inspiration to us. We would like to extend our solidarity to our proud comrade, Steven Burke, who we miss and is always in our hearts and thoughts.

FROM JUDITH CLARK
ANTI-IMPERIALIST FREEDOM FIGHTER, IMPRISONED AT BEDFORD HILLS, NY

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN's DAY, MARCH 8, 1985

Greetings and solidarity, happy International Women's Day. When I think of International Women's Day, I always remember three things. First, that the roots of this day lie in the struggle of working women, mostly immigrants here in the U.S. who came together to militantly demonstrate for their rights as workers and women and for justice. They battled police and faced prison and through their collective actions, emerged a much larger vision of what they were struggling for. They went beyond their time and their individual capacities inspiring generations to come. The struggle of women for liberation has always been most meaningful when it is proletarian in character, which means when women have made their fight inseparable from the struggle to transform society as a whole.

Secondly, I remember that this day is an international holiday celebrated by literally millions of the world's people. The legacy of that struggle by women workers in New York is being born into reality in today's world by oppressed nations fighting for liberation and building socialist society. So we carry on the tradition when we struggle against imperialist war in Central America, when we build solidarity with the rising tide of resistance in Palestine, Lebannon, and Azania/South Africa, when we demand independence for Puerto Rico, and support the struggle for human rights and self-determination of Black/New Afrikan people fighting against police murder and racist attacks.

Thirdly, I think of all the examples of women freedom fighters around the world and here who have taken up arms to advance their people's struggles. In doing so, they come to embody more than themselves, but the aspirations of their whole people, the best of the past, and the promise of the future. When women like Lucy Rodriguez, Haydee Torres and Alejandrina Torres remain indominable in the face of criminal assaults, isolation and indignities, they make concrete the fact that U.S. imperialism cannot defeat their people's struggle which will triumph over all odds in the realization of a free Puerto Rico. When we build a movement that demands their freedom and emulates them through our own active resistance, we transform our own consciousness and power to struggle. When we combat the government's attempts to criminalize the Black Liberation Struggle by indicting the New York 8, we make support for self-determination a principle of our own movement, recognizing that it represents the only basis for defeating the system of white supremacy, winning oppressed peoples' demands for human rights and creating the basis for building our anti-imperialist struggle.

Sometimes over these years in prison when I have felt disheartened or felt the pain of separation from loved ones, especially my daughter, I think of the fact that the best of what I struggled to build through my practice as an anti-imperialist fighter is today becoming a more revolutionary, organized force in the development of an anti-imperialist armed clandestine movement. I heed their consistent arguments through word and deed for combative solidarity with national liberation struggles, in active attacks against the war machine, corporations, and organized forces of white supremacy. I think of all those today who are defying the law, giving sanctuary to Latin American refugees, attacking the war machine, going to jail to maintain a principled stand of non-collaboration, and struggling to build a progressive alternative to the racist mobilization dominant today. Then I feel I am not alone and gain the energy to continue to struggle. Then my own mother's-heart can encompass all our children. For I know that what they most demand from us is that we build a movement and tradition of revolutionary resistance that provides them with the values, ideology and examples they can take up to carry further.

Remember all our women in the jails
Remember all our women in campaigns
Remember all our women over many fighting years
Remember all our women for their triumphs and
for their tears.

----Women's Day Song
from Azania